

# Krab KRONICLE



VOLUME 4 ISSUE 15

506TH AIR EXPEDITIONARY GROUP, KIRKUK AIR BASE, IRAQ

JULY 17, 2006



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an Inferno

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## On the Cover:

**Staff Sgt. Dale Self, 732nd Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron, Detachment 10, horizontal repair craftsman, uses an excavator at a Sensitive Site Exploitation project. Their mission – to provide civil engineering support to the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division area of operations – has come to an end at Kirkuk – and for the 58 members of Det. 10, it is past the time to go home. See story and more photos on page 5. (Courtesy photo)**

## Leadership Focus:

# New leadership

## General Rand takes command of 332nd

By Lt. Col. Bob Thompson  
332nd AEW Public Affairs

After a year as wing commander, Brig. Gen. Frank Gorenc completed his tour and passed the 332d Air Expeditionary Wing flag and command responsibilities to Brig. Gen. Robin Rand on July 5.

As the commander of the only Air Force wing in Iraq, General Rand leads about 7,000 Airmen at five air bases and more than 50 forwarding operation bases inside the country.

"I have picked our very best to lead the 332nd," said Lt. Gen. Gary North, commander of U.S. Central Command Air Forces, who officiated the ceremony. "Clearly General Rand has a diverse background and the leadership skills to lead this wing. He faces the challenge of leading a unit that is in its full stride in combat operations across Iraq."

The wing's headquarters is at Balad Air Base, located about 42 miles north of Baghdad. Also, Airmen from the 332nd AEW provide airfield management, civil engineering and aerial port operations at Kirkuk AB and Ali Base at Tallil, as well as at Baghdad's Sather and Speicher Air Bases.

"If there is one word to sum up my feelings today, it is honor," General Rand said. "It is an honor to command the 332d AEW Red tails and to lead this combat wing at such a



**Brig. Gen. Frank Gorenc (left) shares a light moment with Brig. Gen. Robin Rand during the 332nd Air Expeditionary change of command ceremony at Balad Air Base, Iraq, July 5. General Gorenc relinquished command of the only Air Force wing in Iraq to General Rand. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Tony Tolley)**

critical point in history."

The heritage of today's wing is tied to the 332nd Fighter Group, led by the Tuskegee Airmen of World War II. Having to fight racial prejudice for the right to fight, the African-American pursuit pilots never lost an allied bomber they escorted during 11,000 combat sorties over Europe.

"We are fighting today to help secure freedom, like the original Tuskegee Airmen did in World War II," General Rand said.

General Rand is deployed from Luke Air Force Base, Ariz., where he served as commander of the 56th Fighter Wing, the largest fighter wing in the Air Force.

During his career, which includes five overseas assignments, General Rand has served as an instructor pilot, an air liaison officer with the U.S. Army, and an F-16 weapons officer and squadron commander.

The general is a command pilot with more than 4,400 flying hours.



# NO MORE TRIPS OUTSIDE THE WIRE

## CE detachment hanging up tool belts, heading home

By Staff Sgt. Stacy Fowler  
506th AEG Public Affairs

**"It's been very strenuous,  
and sometimes extremely  
dangerous."**

**Master Sgt. Ken Dunbar**  
**Det. 10 superintendent of operations**

**M**ission accomplished. Those are words that not many units in Iraq can say and mean. But for the Airmen of the 732nd Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron, Detachment 10, it is a fact.

Their mission – to provide civil engineering support to the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division area of operations – has come to an end at Kirkuk – and for the 58 members of Det. 10, it is past the time to go home.

"We have been here for a long time, and have seen the other AEF (aerospace expeditionary force) rotations come and go – now it's our turn," said Master Sgt. Ken Dunbar, Det. 10 superintendent of operations and acting first sergeant. "It's been very strenuous, and sometimes extremely dangerous. I'm ready to get home, see my family and unwind!"

The Airmen in Det. 10 frequently leave the safety of Kirkuk to maintain and repair four main convoy routes, two alternate convoy routes and seven forward-operating bases, or FOBs, in an area covering about 10,000 square miles.

### IED crater repair

When an improvised explosive device, or IED, detonates on one of the roads coalition forces travel, it is Det. 10's job to go out and repair it. But this in itself can be extremely hazardous.

"If there is an IED crater in the road, this gives insurgents the chance to put another in there, and this one would be almost impossible to see," Sergeant Dunbar said. "Not to mention the fact that we know we become the target when we go out. You have the Army in their ACUs, and we're in DCUs – and it's the ones in DCUs who are repairing the roads. Add to that we're going really slowly, usually only 25 miles per hour or slower, and leave and come back by the same route."

In fact, during their first mission to Ft. McHenry on Jan. 27, Det. 10's lead gun truck was hit point-blank by a roadside IED. Senior Master Sgt. Sidney McNeil, Det. 10 chief of operations, was in the vehicle at the time.

"We were just driving along conducting our first mission,

when we heard an explosion," Sergeant McNeil said. "I felt the explosion in my feet, and saw flames outside the window. It happened so fast that the driver and I just looked at each other for a few seconds after it happened, then I said 'oh (expletive),' and we got out of there!"

Sergeant Dunbar and Senior Airman Keith Walters were in the second truck and saw it all.

"Right after it happened, Dunbar turned to me and we both said, 'Did you SEE that?!' Then we got the (heck) out of there!" Airman Walters said. "When we went through training in Colorado for this deployment, it was just ground burst simulators – nothing really big. But when an actual IED went off during that first convoy, there was a huge 'BOOM' that wasn't anything like training. But it was remarkable that after it actually happened, all the training just kicked in and we went to work."

The team assessed the damage, kept accountability of the team and got out of the "kill zone" quickly to get back to base. Two days later they went back out and completed their orientation with the Army as well as a large crater repair mission.

Now almost eight months later, Det. 10 has finished its last crater repair. And according to Sergeant McNeil, the detachment has been very lucky.

"We've been blessed that nobody in the team has been seriously injured," he said. "There have been some close calls though, and we have lost some of our Army brethren on missions. We've been to each one of the ramp ceremonies, and have said our own good-byes to our friends and partners."



**Tech. Sgt. Mattheu Gustafson, an electrical craftsman in the 732nd Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron, Detachment 10, uses a jackhammer to prepare one of 140 IED craters for concrete. Members of Det. 10 frequently left the safety of the base to repair roads. (Photo by Maj. Chris Fuller)**

**See DET 10, page 4**

## DET 10, from page 3

### FOB support

In addition to going outside the wire for crater repair, the Airmen of Det. 10 were also responsible for numerous maintenance, repairs and construction missions at seven FOBs in the area.

Their first mission was to renovate and construct a complex underground facility to support the bed down of Task Force Phantom, a 101st division long-range reconnaissance mission, in February. This proved to be a challenge, especially because of flooding caused by heavy rains and major structural faults in the facility.

"We not only had to deal with all the water, but also the fact that the facilities that Phantom wanted to use just weren't able to be used," Sergeant Dunbar. So the team salvaged materials, found another abandoned facility and completed a full-scale structural, electrical and heating, ventilation and air condition renovation in 30 days, transforming Phantom from a single waterlogged tent into a 4,000 square feet facility for operations.

Other missions during their tour included transforming an Army annex on Kirkuk into the Bastogne Tactical Operations Center, or TOC; closing Patrol Base Barbarian in Kirkuk, which required the demolition and removal of 400 feet of Hesco barriers and concrete T-walls, and disposing of the sand in the Hescos fill site to restore it to pre-war conditions; transforming

the Kirkuk Ivory Combat Clinic from dilapidated tents into a 3,800 square-foot hardened wooden structure that turned the facility into a modern facility with 30 percent more usable space and dual-voltage capability; as well as numerous projects on the FOBs such as electrical renovation, constructing septic systems and firing ranges, and building containerized housing units, or CHUs, for the Army at numerous locations around the AOR.

"Without us, hundreds of soldiers would probably still be living in tents, and showering in them too," Sergeant Dunbar said. "Our sole purpose is to the support the Army. We are Air Force Airmen assigned under tactical control of the 101st Airborne."



**Airman 1st Class Fred Adams, 732nd ECES, Det. 10, structural apprentice, takes measurements for plywood to complete a ceiling for a tactical operations center expansion project. (Courtesy photo)**



**Airmen from the 732nd ECES, Det. 10, fill in a crater caused by an improvised explosive device. They frequently are called out to repair this kind of damage, which can adversely effect coalition travel in country. (Courtesy photo)**

### Sensitive Site Exploitation

Another vital mission that Det. 10 conducts is called "sensitive site exploitation," where the Airmen either confirm or deny the existence of buried chemical weapons. This is based on information they have received from agents in the Air Force Office of Special Investigations and past chemical weapons inspectors.

It took intense planning with AFOSI, the Kirkuk Explosive Ordnance Disposal Flight and other agencies to unearth, secure and transport possible chemical weapons storage containers.

These missions, led by the 1st BCT, often came with a degree of risk for all those involved. Airmen and soldiers frequently donned full chemical-protection gear for long periods of time to ensure their safety.

Since their arrival in January, Airmen in Det. 10 have completed 25 improvised explosive devices crater repair missions, repairing and marking more than 140 craters; conducted two chemical exploration digs with a total of 12 excavations; completed several oil pipeline support missions; and went on numerous runs to the FOBs for repair, maintenance and building missions such as FOB Bernstein, Andrea, McHenry and FOB Warrior at Kirkuk.

According to Maj. Chris Fuller, detachment commander, Det. 10 is the first and last Air Force Civil Engineering unit doing these types of combat operations outside the wire. "We have extended well beyond our traditional CE mission, and delivered it well," he said.

As Det. 10 prepares to head home, their missions with the Army have strengthened all the Airmen who have had the opportunity to take part in this small slice of history.

"We've been running ever since our feet hit the ground in January," Sergeant Dunbar said. "We can now stand shoulder-to-shoulder with our Army brothers and sisters and say, 'Yeah, we did that too.'"



# How do you say 'fire' in Arabic?

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## Iraqi volunteers learn to battle blazes from American brethren

By Staff Sgt. Stacy Fowler  
506th AEG Public Affairs

**F**lames glow orange, red and yellow, smoke billows into the hot desert air – and the already warm day becomes even warmer for the men who have to walk into an inferno.

And for the men of the Iraqi Air Force, this experience is still rather new for them.

The Iraqi Air Force chose a group of its finest maintenance personnel to put down their wrenches and pick up a fire hose. Luckily, they are under the experienced and watchful eyes of Kirkuk's 506th Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron firefighters.

"The majority of the Iraqi firefighters has never been to a formal 'fire academy' and has never been part of a fire department," said Staff Sgt. Carlos Bosch, a firefighter in the 506th ECES. "We are here to ease their transition and help them enhance their job knowledge and professional skills."

According to Sergeant Bosch, the Iraqi firefighters' training began in April with basic principles of fire and fire behavior training, along with rudimentary fire "attack" procedures to fight the flames.

"We began training the Iraqi Air Force in basic firefighting procedures around April of this year, during AEF 9 and 10," said Marine Maj. Waylan Cain, Squadron 3 Iraqi Air Force lead advisor. "Initial training included a lot of classroom basics, as well as a large amount of practical application

**"Initial training included a lot of classroom basics, as well as a large amount of practical application with the equipment..."**

**Marine Major Waylan Cain  
Squadron 3, Iraqi Air Force**



Senior Airman Bradley Hillebrand, 506th Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron Fire Department, checks an Iraqi firefighter's face mask for a proper seal during training June 28. U.S. Air Force firefighters are training Iraqi Air Force volunteer firefighters on principles of firefighting and using their protective gear. (Photo by Senior Airman Angelita Collins)

with the equipment such as state-of-the-art vehicles, breathers and protective clothing."

Training continued in June with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), Breathing Apparatus (SCBA), proper use of discharge patterns for fire control, and a few live fire training exercises.

"Both departments work well together, and the Iraqis showed a real thirst for knowledge," Sergeant Bosch said. "They

performed exceptionally well during the live fires!"

The plan, according to Major Cain, is to have training for these new firefighters at least once a month or even every two weeks. The main reason is to keep the firefighters and their equipment ready for the future.

"Firefighting is a very perishable skill," said Major Cain. "You need repetition to try and make these abilities more instinctive. We also have a couple of these multi-million dollar trucks that we need to keep functional."

While there have been challenges to the training, they are not insurmountable.

**See FIRE, page 6**



(Left) Staff Sgt. Carlos Bosch, 506th Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron Fire Department, steadies an Iraqi Air Force firefighter as he operates the high pressure attack line from one of the fire trucks. (Below) Two Iraqi Air Force firefighters and a firefighter from the 506th ECES battle a pit fire during training. While teaching their Iraqi brethren, American firefighters are overcoming challenges such as language barriers, difference in equipment, and the challenge of creating realistic training scenarios. (Photo by Senior Airman Angelita Collins)

## FIRE, from page 5

“Our major challenge is the language barrier – sometimes an Arabic word just doesn’t have an equivalent English translation, and sometimes the English words can’t fit into Arabic,” said Major Cain. “But there are other forms of communication: pointing to the equipment, using hand signs and other non-verbal cues to let them know what you’re trying to say. We also have an excellent bilingual, bicultural advisor who translates for us.”

“Anything can be overcome through teamwork,” he added.

Another challenge is the differences in equipment, according to Sergeant Bosch, and the occasional difficulty that arises when the American firefighters are trying to create scenarios that their Iraqi brethren will see during their time as firefighters.

“One of our career’s biggest sayings is ‘Adapt and Overcome,’” said Sergeant Bosch. “This is most certainly put to the test with this training.”

According to Major Cain, several of the firefighters training who are going through training now might be asked to transfer into firefighting full-time when the Iraqi Air Force takes control of Kirkuk in the future.

“I wouldn’t be surprised to see several of the men here, especially the best ones of the group, become firefighters when the Iraqis come in,” Major Cain said. “They’re going to be the ones with the experience, as well as have the knowledge of the equipment and the knowledge of the area.”

The Air Force firefighters’ ultimate goal is for the Iraqi Air Force Fire Department to transition to a self-sufficient force.

“Their training is just another example of how we can help ease their transition and enhance better communication for future joint responses between American and Iraqi firemen,” Sergeant Bosch said.



“One of our career’s biggest sayings is ‘Adapt and Overcome.’ This is most certainly put to the test with this training.”

Staff Sgt. Carlos Bosch  
506th ECES Fire Department



# 'HOT, DRY & WINDY – WITH A SIDE OF DUST'

By Staff Sgt. Stacy Fowler  
506th AEG Public Affairs

The weather at Kirkuk is not like most other deployed locations in the Iraq area of responsibility: there is snow in winter, thunderstorms and rain in the spring and winds through out the year. The only time Kirkuk usually feels “normal” desert weather – hot, dry and dusty – is during the summer.

And it is the mission of the 506th Expeditionary Operations Support Squadron Weather Flight to keep track of all the different challenges that Mother Nature may throw out.

“The weather here is a lot like Texas, just wait five minutes and it will change,” said Staff Sgt. K.T. Williams, a 506th EOSS weather technician. “We can’t stop the weather from getting here, but the sooner we know something has the potential to affect the aircraft we can get that information to the aircrews in a timely manner so they can adjust the mission accordingly.”

According to Master Sgt. Phuoc Phan, 506th EOSS Weather Flight Chief, the weather technicians have a two-pronged mission: resource protection and weather observations in relation to the flying missions. Ensuring resource protection which focuses on protecting the troops and military property, and keeping aviators informed of current weather keeps the technicians busy, especially in the desert.

“We compile databases with items such as sky conditions, cloud cover, ceilings (in relation to take-offs and landings), visibility and wind that the flyers use to decide whether or not they will be able to land at Kirkuk or at other bases in the AOR,” said Sergeant Phan. “For example, when

dealing with winds you have to be able to tell the pilots if there are any cross-winds, gusts and the general direction and speed. Pilots use these criteria to base their approaches and departures – you don’t want to tell a pilot there aren’t any cross-winds and then have them blown off the runway when they’re taking off!”

Winds also cause dust and dirt to lift, causing haze and making missions more difficult for the aircraft here.

“We handle a lot of air traffic here, especially the Army recon and MedEvac (medical evacuation) helicopters, but also Iraqi Air Force and transient aircrews,” said Staff Sgt. Jennifer Nuy, 506th EOSS weather technician. “Sometimes the slightest wind can kick up a lot of dust, and the helicopters have very sensitive engines – if they ingest dust and dirt, it can cause huge problems. That’s why whenever they need to come in or go to another area, we have to pay very close attention to the weather across the AOR.”

Another item that can affect the mission, but that also has a major effect on the people here is heat. According to Sergeant Phan, the hotter the temperatures, the thinner the atmosphere, and the air is less “dense.” This means that aircraft have to use more power to generate enough lift for take-off.

Besides making aircraft work harder in an already hostile environment, extreme temperatures have a major effect on the people.

The temperatures here can average to almost 110 degrees from June through August, with the most extreme



Staff Sgt. Jennifer Nuy, 506th Expeditionary Operation Support Squadron Weather Flight, gauges the wind speed with a “kestrel,” which can be called a mini weather station that collects data on current conditions. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Stacy Fowler)

of 120 occurring in July, and there usually isn’t a drop until November.

“You just have to know how to handle those situations, stay vigilant and hydrate, hydrate, hydrate!” Sergeant Williams said.

So how does the weather flight handle the different weather at Kirkuk? They do it by learning local effects and terrain features, being proactive and monitoring satellite, radar and observations across the AOR, as well as staying in contact with other bases about what kinds of weather are affecting them.

“This in turn can help us to anticipate changes, such as how low the visibility will go with a giant dust wall heading this way,” said Sergeant Williams.

So while Kirkuk for now is experiencing “normal” desert weather, who knows what could happen a few months from now? But the 506th EOSS Weather Flight will be ready and able to keep an eye on the sky.

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**“The weather here is a lot like Texas, just wait five minutes and it will change.”**

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Staff Sgt. K.T. Williams  
506th EOSS



## Kirkuk Air Base June Photo Contest Winners - Landscape/Nature



### FIRST PLACE:

1st Lt. James Stall, 506th Expeditionary Communications Squadron



### SECOND PLACE:

Maj. Chris Borchardt,  
506th Expeditionary Medical Squadron



### THIRD PLACE:

Tech. Sgt. Christopher Kirsch,  
727th Expeditionary Air Control Squadron



# Kirkuk Air Base June Photo Contest Winners - Personality

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## FIRST PLACE:

Maj. Chris Borchardt, 506th Expeditionary Medical Squadron



## SECOND PLACE:

1st Lt. James Stall, 506th Expeditionary Communications Squadron



## THIRD PLACE:

Maj. Armando Rosales,  
506th Expeditionary Medical Squadron

## Kirkuk July photo contest

When submitting photos, participants can e-mail them to [506aegpa@krab.centaf.af.mil](mailto:506aegpa@krab.centaf.af.mil), or bring them to either the 506th Expeditionary Communications Squadron Visual Information Office, or the Public Affairs Office.

You may submit one photo per category.

Judges will be looking for: originality, creativity, composition, impact, artistic flair, focus and overall quality.

### Categories:

Landscapes/Nature – A picture depicting an expanse of scenery, and the world of living things and the outdoors

Personality – The pattern of collective character, behavioral, temperamental, emotional, and mental traits of a person (can be on or off duty),

Artistic – photos that have a definitive artistic tone.

### Rules of engagement:

— Photos must be taken during the time allotted: July 1 through July 30

— No obscene or pornographic material

— No photos of the Local Nationals or Third Country Nationals who work on base can be submitted for judging, automatic disqualification if submitted.

— No sensitive or intelligence assets may be in photos.

— If during the performance of duty, all necessary safety equipment must be worn and all safety regulations must be followed.

— The person who takes the photo must be the same person who submits the photo.

— Photos submitted must be cropped 5x7 or 8x10. Digital images must be at least 150 pixels/inch in resolution.

— No altering or digitally enhancing a photo. You may however do basic corrections for brightness and color.

— Photographers may use a digital or 35mm camera.

If no photos submitted for a specific category meet the necessary requirements, then a winner for that category will not be chosen.

There will be first and second prizes in each category: a \$50 AAFES gift certificate for first place, and a \$40 AAFES gift certificate for second place – and all winners will have their photos published in the *Krab Kronicle*.

For more information, call Public Affairs at 444-2075 or Visual Information at 444-2442.

## Commercial websites becoming more available on NIPR computers

The 506th Expeditionary Communications Squadron will upgrade to a more capable web proxy server suite starting today and finishing around Thursday.

One advantage is they will be able to allow personnel access to commercial webmail services such as Hotmail and Yahoo from their work and morale computers.

The new system enables the Air Force to scan and monitor these systems to ensure no unauthorized or harmful code is introduced on to our network.

Test users will be selected and asked to fully test all the web sites they need for their duties. They'll be providing



## The Afterlife

As in both Christianity and Judaism, Islam also teaches that individuals will be held accountable for their actions in this life. The picture of Judgment Day and what follows is very detailed in Islam and contains some interesting parallels to Christian and Judaic doctrine.

After the world comes to its end, at a time known only to God, all mankind will be raised from the grave and given immortal bodies. We will then find ourselves standing on an immense plain, sorted according to the prophet in whom we believed. Christians will stand behind Jesus Christ, Jews behind Moses, and Muslims behind Muhammad.

All of us are then called forth one by one to stand before God and be judged according to the teachings of our prophet and our actions while living.

At this final judgment, all wrongs shall be made right. Witnesses will be called forward to testify for or against us. The record of our lives in the smallest detail shall be read before us. In the end, our good and bad deeds are weighed against each other. The outcome of this balance determines our eternal fate.

For those who lived good lives, they shall cross a bridge stretching over *jahannum* (hell). On the other side, *jannah* (heaven) awaits.

The Islamic heaven is a wonderful place with beautiful gardens, fountains, and plentiful food and drink; a place of eternal rest. The evil shall also cross the bridge, but will topple off it into the eternal torment of a flaming hell. Here they will be tortured endlessly according to their sins.

## Did you know...

... Even if an individual's bad deeds outweigh his good, God is merciful and may pardon him for his acts of kindness to human or animal.

... If, on the Plain of Judgment, you find yourself standing behind someone like Adolf Hitler because you emulated his cruelty, you should have cause for alarm.

... Hell is not eternal for all. Some may be released after enduring an appropriate punishment.

feedback to ensure that all necessary sites are available.

Once the initial fielding period is complete, general users may still find some web sites are not accessible. This may be because the category of website is blocked as inappropriate for access from a government network. It may also be because the site has not yet been categorized by the system.

Because of the way the new proxy system works, all new internet sites added to the internet are blocked by default. In either case, if you believe that a web site should be accessible, contact your CSA or the helpdesk for assistance.



# Uniform board to release updates to AFI

WASHINGTON (AFPN) -- An update to Air Force Instruction 36-2903, *Air Force Uniform Dress and Appearance*, will soon be released, said Air Force officials.

A key feature of this updated instruction will be the return of heritage to the enlisted corps - chevrons on the sleeves and circles around the U.S. insignia.

"Over the years, we've made changes that made sense at the time, but had the effect of moving us away from our heritage," said Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. T. Michael Moseley. "Chevrons on sleeves and circles around the U.S. insignia are historical symbols of the finest noncommissioned officer corps on the planet. We need to return that heritage to them and reconnect them to the great NCOs who went before them."

The circle around the U.S. was eliminated in 1991, said Senior Master Sgt. Dana Athnos of the Air Force Uniform Board.

"Yet, every uniform board since received requests to return that to the enlisted force, so it has been done," she said. "Wearing the circle on the lapel has a lasting heritage that dates back to April 27, 1918."

Changes also include the removal of senior NCO shoulder boards from the blue uniform and from all upper garments, except the optional wool sweaters. Implementation dates will be reflected in the revised AFI.

The updates will also include information about the new air staff badge and new space badge. Desert combat uniforms are now only authorized on civilian flights to and from the area of responsibility. Also, Air Force personnel are not authorized to wear desert boots with the battle dress uniform.

As a reminder, Oct. 1 marks the mandatory wear of physical training gear. Also beginning in October, enlisted Airmen will receive an increase



## Back to school...

Airman 1st Class James Williams, left, and Senior Airman Quinton Fine, both from the 506th Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron, fill bookbags with donated items for Operation School Supplies. Led by the Kirkuk chaplains, Operation School Supplies helps local children by ensuring they have the needed equipment - pencils, markers and other items - for school. For more information about Operation School Supplies, contact the base chaplains. (Photo by Senior Airman Angelita Collins)

in their clothing allowance to offset the increase of the mandatory number of T-shirts and shorts from two sets to three sets in October 2007.

Air Force officials emphasized that Airmen should not wait until October to purchase these items. The revised AFI will clarify wear of the PT gear by specifying that when doing organized PT, the shorts and T-shirts will be worn as a set and not mixed with civilian

clothes; however, at other times the PT gear, to include the running suit, can be worn with civilian clothes.

More clarification will be provided about sister service badges, as well as cell phone use in uniform. New guidance about the wear of flight clothing also is incorporated in the updated document.

The new AFI will be available for all Airmen later this month.